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This is UNEVALUATED Information

EAST GERMANY

MILITARY/AIR

ALTENGRABOW Training Area

(25 July - 4 August 56)

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MOVEMENT

1. Rail

- (a) At 0830 hrs on 26 July 56 arrived by rail at ALTENGRABOW, 8 RLs believed to be M.13, 2 workshop vehicles on ZIS 151 chassis, 3 GAZ 63s laden with ammunition, 6 GAZ 63s each carrying 6 - 8 ORs, 2 ZIS 150s each towing a field kitchen. Troops wore black/red sbds, some with Arty insignia.
- (b) At 1300 hrs on 27 July 56 arrived by rail at ALTENGRABOW, 8 x 85 mm MAA guns each towed by a ZIS 151 carrying 10 - 12 ORs, 6 x 37 mm LAA guns, M.1939 each towed by a GAZ 63 carrying 6 - 8 ORs, 3 workshop vehicles, 1 ambulance, 2 field kitchens, 2 single axled generator trailers.

ACTIVITY

2. Major Exercise passing through ALTENGRABOW Training Area

- (a) On 29 July 56 small parties on traffic control duties were encamped on routes leading SOUTHWARDS from the line WIESENBURG (UT 2677), BELZIG (UT 3580), TREUENBRIETZEN (UT 5474). No major movements were observed.
- (b) Residents of ZERBST (UT 0061) and KOTHE (QC 0638) have mentioned that on the weekend 28/29 July 56 troop movements by road and preparations for such movements were in progress in their areas.
- (c) From the early morning of 30 July 56, traffic regulators were standing by in ZIESAR (UT 1594). Between 1800 and 2100 hrs, columns of vehicles totalling several hundred were passing through ZIESAR coming from the direction of BRANDENBURG (UU 3310) and moving on through MAGDEBURGERFORTH (UT 0890) towards GROSS LUBARS (UT 0384). Between 1600 and 2100 hrs this road was closed to civilian traffic.
 - (i) Most of the vehicles carried troops and included a large proportion of GAZ 67Bs, 6 x 6 and 4 x 4 APCs, and box-bodied W/T trucks. All TCVs carried 2 whip aerials.

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- (ii) The majority of the troops wore black/black sbds some with Engineers' insignia. They were wearing camouflage smocks and steel helmets and carried gas masks.
- (iii) No pontoons or bridging material were carried but a number were laden with beams, ropes, drums of cable and angle irons.
- (iv) Weapons identified were 160 mm mortars, 85 mm MAA guns, 37 mm LAA guns M.1939 and twin and quadruple AAHMGs, believed to be ZPU2 and ZPU 4, mounted on 2-axled carriages similar to those of 37 mm LAA guns. 2 ORs were travelling on each of these carriages sitting on the folded in pad-support on either side.

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- (f) On 31 July and 1 August 56 there was increased flying activity by jet aircraft and helicopters in the area of ALTENGRABOW. Some of the helicopters touched down at ALTENGRABOW/LUBARS Landing Ground.
- (g) Between 1300 and 2100 hrs on 2 August 56, columns totalling 250 - 300 vehicles passed through ZIESAR coming from the direction of ALTENGRABOW and travelling in the direction of BRANDENBURG.
 - (i) The vehicles carried troops with wine red/black and black/black sbds, some of the latter with Signals insignia. Some of the vehicles were laden with stores and fuel drums.
 - (ii) The only heavy weapons observed were 26 x 37 mm LAA guns M.1939 towed by GAZ 63s. At dusk these columns dispersed into the woods either side of the road WENZLOW (UT 2697) BRANDENBURG (UU 3310). This road was barred to civilian traffic.
- (h) Between 1900 and 1930 hrs on 2 August 56, 15 JS IIIs drove up to ZIESAR railway station coming from the direction of ALTENGRABOW. They were despatched by rail in the direction of MAGDEBURG at 0515 hrs on 3 August 56.

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- (i) At 0730 hrs on 3 August 56, 15 JSIII~~s~~ drove up to ZIESAR railway station coming from the direction of ALTENGRABOW. They were despatched by rail in the direction of MAGDEBURG at 1130 hrs.
- (j) During the night 3/4 August 56, search lights from ALTENGRABOW Training Area, ZERBST and the line of the river ELBE to the SOUTH EAST of ZERBST were sweeping the sky.



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